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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/617/Add.8)]

50/106. Business and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 48/180 of 21 December 1993,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning policies and activities related to entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and administrative deregulation, 1/

Also taking note of chapter VI of the World Economic and Social Survey, 1995, 2/

Further taking note of the report of the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments on its first and second sessions, 3/ the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on efforts by the United Nations to address the issue of corrupt practices 4/ and work undertaken in other international forums on the issue of corrupt practices,

Looking forward to the review by the Economic and Social Council of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development,

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1/ A/50/417.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.C.1.

3/ E/1979/104.

4/ See E/1991/31/Add.1.

Aware of the need to increase private-sector involvement in the provision of infrastructure services, inter alia, through joint ventures between public and private entities, particularly in countries with economies in transition, while protecting essential services and safeguarding the environment,

Recognizing the important role of Governments in creating, through transparent and participatory processes, an enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship and facilitative of privatization, in particular in establishing the judicial, executive and legislative frameworks necessary for a market-based exchange of goods and services and for good management, 5/

Taking note of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime (Naples, 21-23 November 1994 and Buenos Aires, November 1995), and of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995), in particular the consideration by those conferences of the issue of illicit payments in international business transactions,

Acknowledging the need for international cooperation to deal with the problem of illicit payments in international business transactions, such as in the ongoing work of the United Nations on its draft international agreement on illicit payments, 6/ so as to promote accountability and a stable and predictable international business environment, and acknowledging further that international efforts in that field require the cooperation of all countries concerned,

1. Values the promotion of entrepreneurship in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

2. Invites Member States, requests the Secretary-General and calls upon and encourages the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to foster active participation in support of entrepreneurship, privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures, as described in General Assembly resolution 48/180;

3. Also invites Member States, requests the Secretary-General and calls upon and encourages the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, in their respective activities for the provision of infrastructure services, to encourage private-sector cost-effective involvement in the efficient construction, use and maintenance of infrastructure;

4. Looks forward to its resumed session in March and April 1996, during which it will examine public administration and development, and address the issues contained in its agenda, including the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development;

5/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A, paras. 27 and 28.

6/ See E/1991/31/Add.1 and E/AC.67/L.3/Add.1.

5. Welcomes the continuation of work on illicit payments in relevant international forums, including the United Nations, taking account of progress already achieved on that issue;

6. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session of 1996, consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure for the continuation of the work with a view to completing the draft international agreement on illicit payments, including consideration of the draft at the substantive session of 1996 of the Council, and recommends that the Council report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", a sub-item entitled "Business and development".

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995